

*A Home Going  
Celebration for*



**Edythe Elmira Payne-Isley**

Sunrise  
March 25, 1923

Sunset  
June 10, 2004

**June 19, 2004**

Maranatha Christian Center  
1811 S. Seventh Street  
San Jose, California 95112

**Dr. Tony Williams, Sr.**  
Senior Pastor



# Obituary

Edythe Elmira Walker was born March 23, 1923 in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania to her parents George and Edith Davis-Webb-Walker. Edythe was the eldest girl of nine brothers and three sisters. All of her brothers and one sister preceded her in death. Her two remaining sisters are Virginia Boyd of Detroit, Michigan and Rose Ellen Henderson of Fontana, California.

Edythe spent her younger years living with her beloved grandmother, Prudence Grant-Davis. They lived in Virginia for a while, but eventually returned to Pennsylvania, where Edythe entered into the local school system. Her time was spent attending several girls church clubs, during which time she became a Junior Leader in the Allegany Baptist Association.

At an early age Edythe felt she had a calling to teach and share the gospel. From the age of fifteen until her passing, she served in a variety of ministries, including the Missionary Society; Sunday School; Church Deaconess; Christian Education leader; Hospitality President; Assistant District Missionary and licensed Evangelist.

Her life was filled with Christian service and the love of many family members. At the end of World War II she met Clifford Payne and after an extensive engagement, they were married in July 1946. They immediately moved to San Pablo, California and emerged themselves in several ministries.

At this very busy time of their lives, they acted as foster parents to a niece and nephew, Gwendolyn Payne and James Morris, who were the first of sixteen foster children through the duration of their 27-year marriage. With the last foster children being nephew's Raymond and George Bruce of Southern California, and her adopted daughter-niece Lynne Cheryl Booth of San Jose, CA.

When the Ford Motor Company moved to the Santa Clara Valley and so did the Payne's.

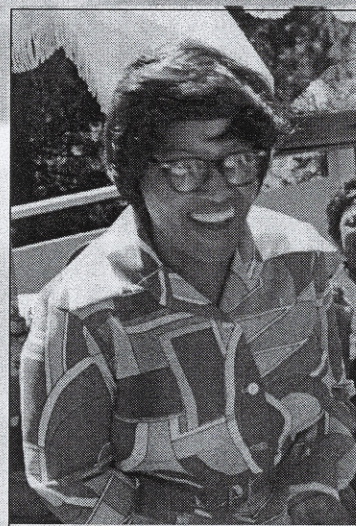
The Payne's placed their membership at the Antioch Baptist



Church in San Jose, where Edythe remained for 30 years. After the death of Mr. Payne, and ten years of widowhood, Edythe met and married Elder Shelly B. Isley. Shelly was the father of four children, Shelly Jr., Christopher, Joseph, and one daughter Priscilla. After uniting in marriage with Elder Isley, they united with Friendship Church of God in Christ.

In January 1990 she and Elder Isley placed their membership at the Prayer Garden Church of God in Christ where Elder Isley had grown up. Not long after, Elder Isley went home to be with the Lord. For approximately 8 years after the death of Elder Isley, Edythe continued to serve at Prayer Garden in various teaching jobs, as well as being Dean of Education.

During this time she continued her education and community activities. She attended the C.H. Mason Bible College and received her degree in Christian Education. She went on to teach in the Bible College and became the coordinator of curriculum. She sensed God's calling to move on and was led by the Lord to Maranatha Christian Center, a truly glorious corner of God's vineyard.



It was here at Maranatha that she experienced a very special and close relationship with the pastor and the Church Body. She was fondly referred to as "Mother Isley." A number of ministries won her participation, particularly the "I Care" Ministry, Women's Fellowship, Women Mentoring Women, and CityTeam. She loved serving as Maranatha's church mother.

She continued her kingdom works until her journey in this life ended Thursday morning, June 10, 2004 at 9:00 am. Mother Isley has been the builder of many lives. No matter how small or serious a problem might be she was always available with a sweet spirit of listening and instruction. She was a great communicator and will be remembered by many for her wisdom, understanding, and great sense of humor.

Sisters Virginia Boyd of Detroit, MI, and Rose Henderson of Fontana, CA, and many nieces and nephews & greats survive her.



# Order of Service

Praise & Worship  
The Processional  
Scripture Reading

Prayer

Musical Selection

Acknowledgements

Obituary

Reflections

Poem

"Higher Ground"

Eulogy

"The Long and Winding Road"

The Recessional

## Active Pallbearers

Marquis Booth  
Lemuel Booth  
Pierre Bruce

Psalm 19  
Isaiah 26:1-7

Elder Wilbert Threats

"It is well with my Soul"  
Mass Choir

Rhunda Boudreaux

Rhunda Boudreaux

Min. Larry Walker  
Nita B. Willis

Elizabeth DeLoach  
Michele Payne-Ollis

Michelle Delk

Jacki Murray

Dr. Tony Williams, Sr.

Regina Haliburton

Earnest Ollis

Charles Wiggins

Barry Ingram

## Honorary Pallbearers

George Bruce  
Shawn Bruce  
Mark Henderson  
Larry Lucas

Tirus Ashford  
Derrick Chatman  
Victor Walker III  
Cliff Young



## *Holy Spirit Come*

Edythe Isley (2004)

Spirit, Spirit, Holy Spirit come into our midst today.  
Spirit, Spirit, Holy Spirit penetrate our hearts we pray.  
Bring righteousness, bring holiness  
Let your anointing rule what'er we say  
Spirit, Spirit, Holy Spirit come into our lives to stay.

Spirit, Spirit, Holy Spirit let your Shikinah glory fall,  
Spirit, Spirit, Holy Spirit please come near to fill us all.  
Bring conviction, bring renewal  
Strengthen our weakness lest we fall  
Spirit, Spirit, Holy Spirit help pull down sins' confining wall.

Spirit, Spirit, Holy Spirit come to us yourself reveal  
Spirit, Spirit, Holy Spirit instill in us a holy zeal.  
Bring miracles, bring words that heal  
Let us show love to any who appeal  
Spirit, Spirit, Holy Spirit be our guide and be our shield.

Spirit, Spirit, Holy Spirit grant us your security.  
Spirit, Spirit, Holy Spirit empower us your Body.  
Bring great wisdom, bring discernment  
Fill with power to teach and preach.  
Spirit, Spirit, Holy Spirit make Christ real  
To those we reach.

Spirit, Spirit, Holy Spirit when we hear the Word as taught,  
Spirit, Spirit, Holy Spirit help us respond with willing heart.  
Bring harmony, bring life that's free.  
Have your living water flow through me.  
Spirit, Spirit, Holy Spirit help us live victoriously.

## *Acknowledgments*

The family of Mother Isley would like to thank our many friends for your kind deeds and above all your prayers. Your kindness shall never be forgotten. May God bless and keep you all.

## *Prayer*

"Lord, make me a channel of thy peace – that where there is hatred, I may bring love – that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness – that where there is discord, I may bring harmony – that where there is error, I may bring truth – that where there is doubt, I may bring faith – that where there is despair, I may bring hope – that where there are shadows, I may bring light – that where there is sadness, I may bring joy. Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted – to understand, than to be understood – to love, than to be loved. For it is by self-forgetting that one finds. It is by forgiving that one is forgiven. It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life. Amen."

## *Internment*

Oak Hill Memorial Park  
300 Curtner Avenue, San Jose CA

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted to:  
Jones Mortuary  
Charles A. Jones, Funeral Director  
660 Donohue Street  
East Palo Alto, CA  
650-323-2481

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